

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /078 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047626

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY; LONDON ALSO FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, PINT, SF, US

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CORPS INVITED TO VISIT ROBBEN ISLAND

REF: PRETORIA 0995
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1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH AMBASSADOR'S GENERALLY
NEGATIVE VIEW OF THIS INVITATION. WE BELIEVE THAT
AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION UNDER THE SAG'S
TERMS WOULD BE MISCONSTRUED, ESPECIALLY IF THERE
IS TO BE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT. THE POSSIBILITY
THAT JUSTICE MINISTER KRUGER MIGHT ACCOMPANY GROUP

RAISES A FURTHER PROBLEM.

2. WE ALSO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ALTERNATIVE IDEA OF A SEPARATE VISIT TO SEE PRISONERS OF OWN CHOOSING. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE WORK TO GET A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF HEADS OF MISSION ON BOARD, EVEN WITH AN ASSIST FROM OUR WESTERN ALLIES. IF CONSENSUS ON THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED, THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT THE REQUEST WOULD BE TURNED DOWN BY SAG. WERE SUCH A VISIT TO BE APPROVED AND GO AHEAD, TOIVO OR MANDELA OR OTHERS COULD WELL TURN DOWN THE REQUEST FOR A MEETING. EVEN IF THE PRESS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE VISIT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD LEARN OF IT AND

ANY TURNDOWNS BY PROMINENT POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE RESULTING PUBLICITY IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND POSSIBLY U.S., COULD BE EMBARRASSING.

3. IN SUM, IT SEEMS TO US THAT AN AMBASSADORIAL VISIT TO ROBBER ISLAND AT THIS TIME WOULD BE ILL ADVISED. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN AMBASSADOR'S INTENTION NOT TO REPLY TO SAG'S INVITATION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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